

*Spec 7/1*  
**10. (Amended)** A schedule management system, comprising:

3 a schedule server which stores schedules of participants and schedules of equipments reserved by ones of said participants in different groups; and

4 a plurality of remote client devices operatively connected to said schedule server,  
5 which allow client users to input schedules of said participants and request an idle time  
6 retrieval from said schedule server, wherein a degree of significance is provided to said  
7 participants respectively so that schedules of said participants are grouped in the order of said  
8 degree of significance to thereby produce the idle time corresponding to said degree of  
9 significance.

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**11. (Amended)** A schedule management system, comprising:

2 a schedule server which stores schedules of participants and schedules of equipments reserved by ones of said participants in different groups; and

4 a plurality of remote client devices operatively connected to said schedule server,  
5 which allow client users to input schedules of said participants and request an idle time  
6 retrieval from said schedule server, wherein said schedule server comprises databases which  
7 store schedules of participants and schedules of equipments reserved by ones of said  
8 participants, and a multistageous idle time retrieval unit which divides schedules registered  
9 for participants and equipments into a plurality of groups and retrieves an idle time common  
10 from one group as a retrieval condition for retrieving an idle time common for another group  
11 of said plurality of groups.

1           **--15.** The schedule management system according to claim 10, wherein said  
2        schedule server comprises a communication controller which provides registration for a  
3        special group, and wherein said idle time is retrieved so that at least one of participants and  
4        equipments in said special group satisfies a retrieval condition for retrieving said idle time.

1           **16.** The schedule management system according to claim 15, wherein said  
2        schedule server further comprises a data access unit which accesses selected databases in  
3        accordance with instructions for retrieving the idle time common from said plurality of  
4        groups.

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1           **17.** The schedule management system according to claim 10, wherein said  
2        schedule server comprises a data access unit which accesses selected databases in accordance  
3        with instructions for retrieving the idle time common from said plurality of groups.

1           **18.** The schedule management system according to claim 11, wherein said  
2        schedule server further comprises a communication controller which provides registration for  
3        a special group, and wherein said idle time is retrieved so that at least one of participants and  
4        equipments in said special group satisfies a retrieval condition for retrieving said idle time.

1           **19.** The schedule management system according to claim 18, wherein said  
2        schedule server further comprises a data access unit which accesses selected databases in  
3        accordance with instructions for retrieving the idle time common from said plurality of